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Women's Cross Country Runs 20th At NCAA Regionals In First Appearance Since 2000



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MONTEVALLO, Ala. - In its first NCAA Southeast Regionals appearance since 2000, the Armstrong State University women's cross country team finished 20th of 27 teams on Saturday morning at the University of Montevallo.

The Pirates finished the meet with 530 points in its first season of competition since reinstating the program earlier this year. Montevallo (41) captured the meet on its home course, with Queens (NC) (47) and Wingate (98) finishing second and third, respectively, with all three teams moving on to the NCAA DII National Championships on Nov. 19th in Saint Leo, Fla.

Senior **Jessica Smith** paced the Pirates by finishing 58th in a time of 23:38.83 over the 6k course, the third-fastest 6k time on record in Armstrong State women's cross country history. Junior **Amanda Fernandez** finished 97th in a time of 24:50.83, with sophomore **Kaylee Bromell** finishing 98th in a time of 24:52.79. Freshman **Audrey McCormick** ran 127th in a time of 25:46.27 and freshman **Bethany Panhorst** rounded out the Pirate times by finishing 167th in a time of 27:38.29. 182 runners

competed in the regional on Saturday.

"It's always difficult with essentially a first-year program, but I think we made tremendous progress this season," Armstrong State head coach Michael Sergi said. "This team sees the momentum we gained throughout the year and they're excited about the future. I believe we are headed in the right direction."

Armstrong State will return five of six runners from its squad this season for 2017.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY IS ONE OF THE PREMIER NCAA DIVISION II COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS IN THE NATION, FEATURING 13 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, 97 PEACH BELT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS, 148 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS APPEARANCES AND 302 ALL-AMERICANS.

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